

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 08481 051143Z

53

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 L-03

STR-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12

PRS-01 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00 XMB-07

OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 SCEM-02 INT-08

SAJ-01 RSR-01 /184 W

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R 050900Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5040

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 8481

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, JA, UR, US

SUBJ: JAPAN/SOVIET MEETING ON YAKUTSK GAS

REF: TOKYO 8172

SUMMARY: JAPANESE-SOVIET NEGOTIATIONS CENTERING ON
YAKUTSK NATURAL GAS PROJECT WILL BEGIN JULY 9. END
SUMMARY.

1. EMBASSY OFFICIAL MET JULY 5 WITH CHIEF OF THE ECON-
OMIC DIVISION OF SOVIET TRADE REPRESENTATIVE OFFICE,
IGOR KAZAKOV, TO DISCUSS UPCOMING JAPAN/SOVIET TALKS
ON DEVELOPMENT YAKUTSK GAS (SEE REFTEL). ACCORDING
KAZAKOV, 15-MAN DELEGATION, INCLUDING DEPUTY MINISTERS
OF FOREIGN TRADE, GEOLOGY AND PETROLEUM PIPELINE CON-
STRUCTION, NOW SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE IN TOKYO JULY 6 FOR
TEN DAYS OF CONSULTATIONS WITH JAPANESE SIDE. FOLLOWING
PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT AND EXCHANGE OF LETTERS OF INTENT
WITH THE US (EL PASO-OCCIDENTAL-BECHTEL GROUP), THIS
WILL BE THE FIRST IN PLANNED MEETINGS BETWEEN USSR AND
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 08481 051143Z

JAPAN, ON THE ONE HAND, AND USSR AND US ON THE OTHER HAND
(I.E. SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS).

2. KAZAKOV SAID SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED WITH JAPANESE IN SESSIONS ON YAKUTSK GAS INCLUDED GAS PRICE, PIPELINE ROUTE, AMOUNT OF CREDITS AND JAPANESE SHARE OF THE CREDITS. TERMS OF CREDIT WOULD NOT BE MAIN ISSUE DURING THESE DISCUSSIONS. IN RESPONSE TO EMBOFF'S QUESTION AS TO HOW SOVIETS PLANNED VERIFY GAS RESERVES, KAZAKOV SAID THAT THERE HAD BEEN SOME DISCUSSION WITHIN THE USSR OF MOUNTING APPROXIMATELY \$100 MILLION EXPLORATION PROJECT PRIOR TO INITIATING FULL YAKUTSK DEVELOPMENT. GOSPLAN HD ALREADY ALLOCATED EXTRA MONEY AND ASSIGNED EXTRA GEOLOGISTS TO YAKUTSK DEVELOPMENT. US AND JAPAN'S ROLE IN ANY EXPLORATION PROJECT STILL REMAINED UNCERTAIN, BUT THIS LIKELY TO BE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION AT UPCOMING MEETING.

3. KAZAKOV SAID THAT SCHEDULE CALLS FOR E AND ONE HALF DAYS OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN JAPANESE AND SOVIET DELEGATIONS (BEGINNING JULY 9), FOLLOWED BY PREPARATION OF MEMORANDUM ON AFTERNOON OF 12TH AND FORMAL MEMORANDUM SIGNATURE AND PRESS INTERVIEWS ON JULY 13.

4. ALL OF THE NEGOTIATIONS NOW PLANNED FOR NEXT WEEK DEAL WITH YAKUTSK NATURAL GAS PROJECT, BUT KAZAKOV EXPECTED SOVIET OFFICIALS WOULD FIND TIME FOR SESSIONS WITH JAPANESE ON BOTH SAKHALIN OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION PROJECT AND TYUMEN PROJECT.

5. IN AN INTERESTING ASIDE, KAZAKOV SAID THAT HE AND SOVIET TRADE REPRESENTATIVE BORIN HAD JUST COMPLETED PAPER ON "THE EVOLUTION OF THE AMERICA FACTOR IN JAPAN/USSR ECONOMIC RELATIONS." MAIN THEME, KAZAKOV SAID, WAS THAT UP UNTIL TWO YEARS AGO US INFLUENCE HAD ACTED TO PREVENT JAPANESE FROM BECOMING HEAVILY INVOLVED IN SIBERIA. NOW, HOWEVER, IT WAS JUST THE OPPOSITE. CONCERN IN JAPAN THAT US WAS MOVING TO TAKE THE LEAD IN SIBERIAN DEVELOPMENT WAS ACTING TO SPEED UP JAPANESE INVOLVEMENT IN SIBERIAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

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PAGE 03 TOKYO 08481 051143Z

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